

**Minutes of 3/3/15 Sewer Commission meeting - at the DPW conference room 520 Chase Rd.**

Attendees: Chair, Carl Luck, Vice-Chair, Dave MacDonald; Members, Mike Nault, Troy Daniels. Butch Bilotta, Business Manager, Barb Lefebvre.

Carl opened the meeting at 7:03pm, introducing **Pat Cotton from Weston & Sampson**. Pat provided a handout, and advised of the plan to plot all the **manholes** from the data Jimmy Breault already had on his GPS, apply a numbering system and send to Cartographics to add another layer to the town maps and sewer system. This would cost about \$1000. Carl asked if he could send us an email with that cost and the Commission can vote on it at their next meeting. Pat proposed that after that had been completed, Weston & Sampson could do town-wide manhole inspections. Pat estimated that for 350 manholes the project would run around \$25,000 and would include recommendations for manhole rehabilitation. Pat noted that Lunenburg's covers are larger than others but didn't recommend making any changes and staying consistent across town. As far as what else could be done to reduce I/I, Pat noted from the prior report that infiltration is not the problem, more inflow. Dave inquired about temporary meters in the Whalom area, especially in Graham St.. Troy brought up the known issue at 37 Graham with the broken pipe and asked Pat how much I/I that could be contributing. Pat said it depends on where the pipe is broken and how deep. Troy wanted to know if the repair should be done before or after the I/I work. Pat suggested another alternative for capping the line by mentioning that contractors, such as NEPCO, can come in and seal the pipe using a bladder. Carl asked if the bladder can be removed easily once the pipe is repaired. Troy asked if it would be more than \$1000 and Pat thought so, but the road would not have to be dug up. He thinks it is deep there. Pat will get the Commission a quote and they can compare to the cost of having a contractor dig. It still may be cheaper and we don't need to repair the street. Dave asked about installing temporary meters to monitor flow on Graham St. Carl reminded Pat that he had suggested using the Leominster Rd. pump station to determine flow. Pat would recommend running a drawdown test to check accuracy of flows. Pat said a simple drawdown would work without having to install a temporary meter and you can have the subcontractor in charge of the stations do that. We can ask SWSS to do it, or have Weston & Sampson come do it with SWSS there to watch for future investigations. Troy asked if that would be his recommendation over putting in temporary meters. Pat wouldn't recommend putting meters in, it is very expensive and estimated it to be around \$8000 for 10 weeks. Dave didn't think it was that expensive. Pat will check but added that they already did that analysis. Troy added that we need to consider what the Commission would do with the data. Pat said we could study Graham this spring during high groundwater, study the manholes and TV all the lines. Dave said there is a situation going on on Graham St. and still getting dirt at the flow meter. He still thinks someone hooked up storm drains to the sewer. Pat said there was no smoke coming out the storm drains when they did the smoke testing. Commission discussed how a resident might have gotten around being found out during smoke testing. Pat added that they looked at each residence carefully. Dave still wants to study storm drains in that area. Pat reviewed the process of studying storm drains when smoke is detected using dye tests but none was seen in that area. Storm drain systems are significantly over-sized. Is there a flooding problem during high rain periods because of a drain system backing up? Dave is just not convinced that the dirt at Graham St. meter is not just 37 Graham and would like to send a camera up the storm drain. Pat stated that the Commission would be better served by camera-ing the sewer line during high ground water, to find a service connection that doesn't match up with a house. Carl agreed that it is a good thought and that he is glad there is a technique to getting the broken pipe capped off since we do know we have dirt coming in and some of it could be from that. They can then look at the flow differences between the pump station and flow meter. Butch asked Pat for a quote. Carl asked to move on with the agenda. Pat stated that for Leominster Rd. we're on target for early April so he'll be contacting Barb to get the letters out. He'll email the package out for distribution to have the Commission look at it and comment. The only change from last time is that we'll add a date to the notices. Dave stated that we're still looking to get a 98% signoff rate. Pat noted that in the agreement that they'll do their best to get to 80% but the Commission knows what it takes to get more. Pat asked if we wanted to get a proposal to do the manhole inspections for this spring? Carl noted that it depends on the budget and if we have the money this year or if we have to wait for next year. We do plan to do I/I work next year. Pat would recommend to study area directly upstream from the Graham St. meter and when we have the crew come in to do the manhole inspections to TV all those pipes. Carl asked Pat to include that in the quote as an option. To close out the metering question, would W&S do the monitoring of the flow for us? Pat said our subcontractors provide the run times daily and all W&S would need is relatively accurate flow rate for each

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pump. For the ten week period, we only need to do the drawdown just once. Carl thought SWSS could calculate the flow rate. Pat agreed that they could do a draw down, get an average and they could run a volume count to get the gpd. Carl confirmed with Mike that we could go to SWSS to do this? Pat offered that someone from W&S could come out with SWSS to they could give them access. Pat added that they just need to have 2 people for a few hours– one to take the measurements, and the other to time it, turning the pump on. Carl confirmed that we'll talk to SWSS about doing it and see if they are comfortable doing that. If not, we'll have W&S train SWSS. Pat has some things to look into and will get back to us.

**Current Business- Pleasantview Ave sewer extension request** – Carl introduced Sue Bunish who joined the meeting. Letters went out to 14 residences to determine interest, including 1 to Lorden. Current maps have him with a cul-de-sac and 3 lots but subsequent plan modification shows they no longer exist. Another property with frontage on Ramgren but more than 50' on Pleasantview was also sent letter for interest although he wouldn't be counted in the 2/3rds or no. The third questionable parcel is the lot at the end of Pleasantview who may not want sewer. Commission discussed stopping extension part way. Barb read from Betterment bylaw: "Prior to the initiation of a sewer project in any Sewer Service Zone as identified on the Sewer Service Area Map, and prior to submitting an appropriation request to the Town, the Sewer Commission shall survey the landowners in said Sewer Service Area to determine whether a minimum of 2/3 of all affected owners support the installation of sewer service." Dave said he could go and speak to those who hadn't responded or responded as a 'no'. Sue made a point for the home in foreclosure that the bank may be interested in the improvement. Sue noted that it is listed by Foster Healy who is always there, keeping up with maintenance. Carl thought that was a possibility and that we should talk with the realtor. Dave will talk with Brogna and Sue with the realtor. Sue asked if Jack had any discussion with Leominster about the water situation. Carl said Kerry was going to follow up with Jack. Sue noted that she just doesn't want to get all the way to Town Meeting and be shut down because of the issues with the water line. Per Carl, Kerry would like to roll all this together. Jack seemed to believe that we could do the work independent of the water issue and it shouldn't have to hold up the sewer. The road is another issue. Dave pointed out we need to do one thing at a time and get the people to approve, then put pressure on Leominster. Carl said it is just a formality to get Leominster's to say no again then Lunenburg can take some action. Troy asked if we have a placeholder on the warrant which Barb said we did and that we'll address the warrant articles at next week's meeting. Dave asked Barb to email him the paperwork on those that haven't responded yet and thought the bank is the best way to go. Butch said there is a lot of red tape with a bank. Carl summed it up saying that we all had some actions to make this happen. Sue left the meeting, thanking the Commission for all their work.

**Pratt/Lakeview Betterment Project - Easements** – Carl noted we are down to the one coming in and the one with the Town. Dave noted that Brogna wants to sell the property. On the **Bid process**, Carl asked for any last inputs before going out to bid and that Kerry said it is our authorization. Dave asked that the engineer's questions were answered. Barb noted that the email of potential bid dates from Wright Pierce has everything on it, the room at Town Hall confirmed, and Jack's request for a pre-bid meeting has been added. Dave recommends that someone from the Commission attends the pre-bid meeting. Carl asked for a **motion to release the bid**. Butch made the motion, Troy seconded. **Vote taken was unanimous.** Barb wanted to go back to the Easements for a moment to verify that next week, providing we have Brogna's paperwork, it will be on the agenda for the Sewer Commission to vote to accept the Easements and sign all the documents. Also we will need to vote to authorize counsel to commence the eminent domain process on the 'Town property', called that because is it actually 'owner unknown' even after counsel's title search. Dave asked why the Board of Selectmen can't just sign off on it but Barb noted that that is because we don't own it and Troy added 'nor do we want to'. Carl said that that is fine, just add to the agenda for the meeting.

**Sewer Homeowner Insurance Plan**- Carl said this item is on the agenda per his request. He had seen an editorial in the Sentinel by one of the councilors in Fitchburg reporting on the success of a program. A company sells insurance to homeowners to cover the sewer & water lines from the town to the house. Dave asked doesn't homeowners' insurance cover that? Per Carl, no – that was his first question also. Butch stated that his cousin in Leominster did this with some success. Carl said that Leominster doesn't officially sponsor it. Editorial claimed that it saves the homeowners' money. Carl handed out sample pamphlets that were sent to him. For sewer it costs about \$80-90 per year. By the town helping with the program, they can get 8% of the income returned to them or pass it on to the homeowners. He would recommend we pass the saving to the homeowners. Troy would want to see a packet of information and check out other companies to see how they compare before recommending one company. Carl said we can also talk to Fitchburg and provided some of the endorsements from Westfield and Leominster. We

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would not be endorsing, just informing. Also, Carl had put in a call to Dave Rodgers to see if the Water department would be interested. It was noted that the **Town Caucus is March 16 at 7pm**. Carl asked for discussion and advised that neither Dave nor Butch are planning to run. Dave noted that the Commission has done good work, accomplished good community relations and other people respect this board. They've gotten a lot accomplished and that it would be good if the whole system worked like that. He added that 'what's good for the Town' is what it should all be about and noted that it has been a joy working with everyone. Troy will not be in Town for the caucus. Carl asked for everyone to come up with ideas for people who may be interested.

**Minutes** – Barb provided the minutes for 2/3 and revised minutes of 1/13 & 2/10. Carl asked for **a motion to approve the minutes as corrected of 1/13. Dave made the motion, Troy seconded. Vote taken was unanimous.** Carl asked for **a motion to approve the minutes of 2/3. Dave made the motion to approve the minutes, Troy seconded. Vote taken was unanimous.** For the minutes of **2/10**, Troy noted a change in the SRF section. Dave **made the motion to accept the minutes with the amendment. Troy seconded. Vote taken was unanimous.**

Carl reviewed the activity with the **Lien subordination request for 68 Elm St.** Troy stated that he would never support a subordination of a town lien to any lender or mortgage company. Carl noted that the request was driven by hardship and the HARP program. Counsel was contacted and advised that no subordination should occur. Lender withdrew request. Carl noted that the Fincom meeting is next week. Carl is still working through the betterment piece of the budget and is working with Karen B. Brief discussion of the project monies and SCADA.

Carl asked if there was anything more and asked for a motion to adjourn. **Troy made the motion, Dave seconded. Vote taken was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lefebvre